

I oppose loosening the rules designed to promote and protect diversity of media ownership. These rules were adopted to ensure that the public would receive a diverse range of viewpoints from the media, and not simply the opinions of a handful of media conglomerates.

To Whom It May Concern at the FCC:

The United States Supreme Court -- in *Associated Press v. United States*, No. 57, Argued December 5, 6, 1944, Decided June 18, 1945 -- stated the necessity to assure "the widest possible dissemination of information from diverse and antagonistic sources," which is "essential to the welfare of the public" and that "a free press is a condition of a free society"

I agree.

It would be hazardous to our democratic system of government if the American people were not informed by widely divergent "voices" when making decisions about political issues and our government.

And, yes, the American government DOES belong to the American people; we only delegate the power to govern us. In order to make wise decisions, we must hear from multiple sides of the various issues; the most dangerous event would be to allow ONE media owner - with one point of view - to dominate any single region. That is a recipe for disaster.

The rights of businesses should never be ranked higher than the rights of the American people as individuals to know as much as can practicably be known about issues of importance to them.

The right to make a profit must come second to the right of the American people to be well and broadly informed.

For the reasons I have stated, I oppose the following four rules currently under review at the FCC:

1. Broadcast-newspaper cross-ownership rule: This policy has prohibited the two most important sources of information in a community-the daily newspaper and a broadcast TV station-from being owned by the same company.
2. Local TV multiple ownership rule and the radio/TV cross-ownership rule: These rules limit somewhat the number of stations that any one entity can own in a single community.
3. National TV ownership rule: This policy limits the number of TV stations a single company can own. The current limit prohibits a company from controlling stations that collectively reach 35 percent of all TV households.
4. Dual Network Rule: This policy prevents one of the four major networks-ABC, CBS, NBC, and Fox-from buying another network.

I hope you will deliberate long and hard - and listen to the American people who ate against de-regulation, and digest their reasons - before making any move to further de-regulate media ownership of an already too de-regulated communications system.

Yours truly,

Lois Erwin